

Cleaning the Treatment Area

Rationale/Objective

Standard precautions require the use of safety practices in all areas of health care. In the dental office, cleaning the areas between patients is necessary to prevent the transfer of body fluid contamination from one patient to the next and to the dentist and assistants. The student will demonstrate knowledge and skills to clean the dental treatment area.

TEKS 121.3 (c) 6 B; 7C; 10 B, C; 11 B, G; 12 B; 13 C TAKS ELA 1
121.4 (c) 9 A, B; 10 B; 13 A; 15 B; 15 A, B
1215. (c) 6A, 6F, 7A, 7D

Key Points

1. Utility gloves must be worn during the cleaning and sanitizing of a treatment room.
2. Cleaning is necessary before an area can be sanitized or disinfected.
3. Rinsing organic matter off the equipment reduces the amount of contamination from the equipment and helps to assure the effectiveness of the sanitization and disinfection processes. This requires that reusable equipment must be washed much as washing dishes before placing that equipment into soaking baths or autoclave packages for final disinfection.
4. Use the treatment tray to remove equipment from the treatment area to the cleaning area.
5. Sanitization means the area has been cleaned well, but it does not mean that all the harmful organisms have been destroyed.
6. Some equipment in the dental treatment area is cleaned by flushing the water lines (for handpieces, HVE and air/water syringes) for 20-30 seconds.
7. Biohazardous materials must be placed in a biohazard receptacle.
8. Spray disinfectants are used on surface areas that are not covered with barrier devices. Surfaces are wiped with a sponge or disposable paper towel, using friction to remove additional debris.
9. After cleaning and sanitizing has been completed, gloves must be removed, sprayed with an appropriate disinfectant spray and hung to dry.
10. After removing and cleaning gloves, hands must be washed.

Activities

- I. Using the Dental Assisting Guidelines, Procedure 1-C, clean the treatment area.
- II. Visit a local dental office to see how the treatment areas are cleaned between patients.

Materials/Resources

Delmar's Dental Assisting A Comprehensive Approach by Donna J. Phinney and Judy H. Halstead. Delmar Thompson Learning 2000.

Dental chair in treatment area

Appropriate barrier devices

<http://www.hosa.org> - Dental Assisting Guideline

Assessments

Successful cleaning of the treatment area

Accommodations

For reinforcement, the student will refresh knowledge of universal precautions.

For enrichment, the student will research the spread of infectious diseases as a result of improper technique cleaning between patients in the dental office.

Reflections
